



## Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program Fact Sheet

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- The Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program was established in 1989. California was the 20th state in the nation to develop an Adopt-A-Highway Program.
- The Adopt-A-Highway Program allows the public to donate funds, materials, equipment, and services for roadside maintenance or enhancement.
- In addition to the aesthetic benefits of cleaner and more beautiful roadsides, participants help to prevent potential pollutants from entering our waterways and to save California's taxpayers millions of dollars every year.
- There are over 4,200 active groups, representing an estimated 40,000 participants.
  - 75% of the groups are volunteers who perform the services themselves.
  - 25% of the groups are sponsors who hire a contractor to perform the work on their behalf.
- The Adopt-A-Highway Program provides a great opportunity for both volunteer and sponsor groups to promote civic responsibility and community pride.
- An Adopt-A-Highway courtesy sign is erected to recognize participants for their contributions.
- During the past 14 years, Adopt-A-Highway participants have:
  - Collected litter from over 4,000 locations.
  - Cleaned graffiti from more than 300 freeway walls or structures.
  - Planted trees and wildflowers at 368 sites, totaling 1,840 acres.
  - Maintained historic mission bells along the El Camino Real.
- More than 15,000 shoulder-miles of highway are adopted—over 50% State Highway System.
- In 2002, Adopt-A-Highway Program participants picked up nearly 250,000 bags of trash from California's roadsides. This represents a 19% increase in the amount of trash picked up in 2001.
- This effort results in a \$14.5 million savings to Caltrans each year.

